

Serial No. 10/575,514
Atty. Doc. No. 2003P12200WOUS

REMARKS

Claims 22-40 are pending and presented for examination. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Response To Rejections Under Section 102

Claims 22, 23, 25-32, and 34-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Takahara (US 5,450,725).

Independent Claims 22 and 32

Regarding to independent claims 22 and 32, the Examiner reads that Takahara teaches all of the claimed limitations.

Applicant respectfully submits that reference letter C is not combustion air. Rather it represents main fuel and is mixed with compressed air d in the pre-mixture duct 55, followed by injecting the mixed gas into the second-stage combustion region 27 through the duct outlet port and a plurality of fuel injection port 56 are, in the lengthwise direction of the pre-mixture duct 55, opened at the duct outlet port (column 9 lines 24-38). Takahara does not teach that the leftmost port 56 discharges a first portion of the mixture into the combustion chamber such that the first portion circulates in the combustion chamber and the middle and rightmost ports 56 injects a second portion of the mixture into the combustion chamber generally perpendicular to a direction of a hot combustion gas flowing away from the circulating mixture such that the second portion mixes with the hot combustion gas and combusts prior to exiting from the combustion chamber. In fact, Takahara teaches that a pilot fuel serving as first-stage fuel is injected into the first-stage combustion region 26 by a first-stage fuel supply means 30 and main fuel serving as second-stage fuel is supplied into the second-stage combustion region 27 by a second-stage fuel supply means 32 (column 8 lines 1-16).

Furthermore, the Examiner fails to identify where and how Takahara teaches the limitation of adding a further fuel to the circulating mixture A until the circulating mixture ignites. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to clearly identify where and how Takahara teaches applicant claimed limitations.

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In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 22 and 32 are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraws the Section 102 rejection.

Dependent Claims 23, 25-31, and 34-40

Dependent claims 23, 25-31, and 34-40 are patentable based on their dependency from independent claims 22 and 32 respectively as well as based on their own merit. Therefore, withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection is respectfully requested.

Response To Rejections Under Section 103

Claims 24 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the examiner contending that these claims are obvious over Takahara (US 5,450,725) in view of Voorheis (US 4,629,416).

For at least the reasons discussed in connection with the Section 102 rejections, Applicant respectfully submits that these dependent claims are patentable based on their dependency from independent claims 22 and 32 respectively as well as based on their own merit. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the Section 103 rejection.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extension of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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